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12 January 1952

State Department review
completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Coordination of Research for Psychological
Warfare

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1. [] of the PSB staff is making a study on the problem of how the U. S. Government should coordinate research in support of psychological warfare. To assist in mutual understanding and analysis of the problem a meeting was held in my office at [] request on 10 January with [] PSB; Messrs. Howe, Evans, Ruggles, Trueheart and Penniman of State; [] and myself.

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2. CIA made the following background statements:

a. There is general agreement among the agencies, particularly by State and CIA, that the June paper prepared by CIA* on intelligence support for psychological warfare is correct in its analysis. The central point of this paper is that the primary responsibility in this field rests in the State Department's intelligence area and that it should, therefore, carry out coordination with the other agencies. The role of CIA is to see that this works and to assist it in any way possible.

b. The reference paper in "a" does not deal with external research in the social science field encompassed in this problem. There already exists a recognized responsibility on the part of the intelligence area, State Department, to do as much coordination as possible in this field. This has been in part supported by CIA financially.

c. The analysis of what ought to be and the present arrangements to accomplish it, point then to the conclusion that the State Department already has the responsibility for the coordination of social science research (outside of economics). It may be that this responsibility has not been sharply enough defined in the minds of all interested parties, particularly State Department.

3. I made the following proposals, which I believe would clear the air and move us quite a way toward improvement:

a. That the State Department is the proper location for the responsibility for the leadership (meaning among other things, coordination) of research in support of psychological warfare.

* This paper is attached for your information in case you are interested.

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b. That the State Department affirm that it has this responsibility.

c. That ways and means be sought to provide the necessary funds and personnel for the State Department adequately to discharge this responsibility.

4. [] was not committed to this solution nor has he formulated a definite proposal as yet. The tendency of his thinking has been in the direction of a more systematic, centralized and more authoritative control over research activities although I think he recognizes the virtual impossibility of this and probable undesirability of it. My own hunch is that his recommendation to the PSB will not be far from the foregoing proposals.

5. The State Department reaction was favorable to the proposals and a recognition, I believe, that stronger leadership and effort on their part are required.

JAMES Q. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

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